DARTON

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

R. MILLAR, M.B., Ch., B.D.P.H.

1909.

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To the Darton Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1909.

Birth Rate.—The number of Births registered during the past year is 346, which compares with 306 for the previous year, an increase of 40, and with an average of 293 for the ten previous years. Of these 161 were females and 185 males. Fifteen were illegitimate, compared with the same number for 1908, and 8 and 9 in 1907 and 1906 respectively. The illegitimate rate per 100 births was 4·3, which compares not unfavourably with the rate for the rest of the country. At the same time the illegitimate birth-rate is influenced by other factors besides morality. The birth-rate, calculated on a population of 9,600, is as 36 per 1,000 of the inhabitants, as against 32·7 in 1908, and an average of 35·1 for the last ten years. The total number of births is the highest since 1896, when the abnormal total of 498 was registered. The birth-rate for England and Wales for the past year has been calculated at 25·6 per 1,000, so that it is to be noted that the factors which are reducing the birth-rate elsewhere in the country are not in operation in Darton to any appreciable extent.

Death Rate.—The number of deaths registered in the district for the year is 125, compared with 116 the previous year, and an average of 118 for the last ten years. The rate was 13 per thousand of the population. Outside the district there were registered 11 deaths of residents in Darton District, making a total of 136 deaths, giving a net death-rate of 14·1. The rate for 1908 was also 14·1, and the average for the last ten years was 14·8. The rate for England and Wales for 1909 was 14·5. Measles was very prevalent during the summer, and accounted for 13

deaths, against one the previous year. On the other hand Whooping Cough, which in 1908 caused 12 deaths, was responsible for no death during 1909. The mortality from tubercular diseases was stationary. Cancer caused 6 deaths in 1909, and 8 in 1908. Premature birth is the cause given for 9 deaths, compared with one in 1908.

Infantile Mortality.—The number of Infants dying under 12 months of age was 32, compared with 42 in 1906, 42 in 1907, and 32 in 1908. The rate of infantile mortality was 92, while in England and Wales it was 109. At first glance these seem very favourable figures, but I would point out that the deaths between 1-2 years of age were 19, and in the age period 1-5 years 30, compared with an average of 18 for the three preceding years, figures which have to be taken into consideration before drawing too favourable conclusions. I am glad to state, however, that even allowing for this abnormal number of deaths in the period just over 12 months, the infantile mortality is being continuously reduced in this district.

The main causes of deaths of infants were premature birth, diarrhœa, and bronchitis, these three causes accounting for 9, 4, and 6 deaths. The first is difficult to deal with, the stress of life in the homes of the working-classes preventing the necessary rest during the period of pregnancy. The other two causes will not operate so largely, as mothers increasingly adhere to the laws of hygiene, and housing is improved.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1909 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR	Population Estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.				
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 births Register'd	Number.	Rate.*		Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1899	7960	288	36·2	47	163	119	14·9		119	14·9
1890	7003	257	36·6	41	165	131	18·7		131	18·7
1901	7670	306	39·7	41	153	117	15·2		117	15·2
1902	7735	296	38·2	48	162	134	17·3		134	17·3
1903	7915	288	36·6	43	149	108	13·6		108	13·6
1904	8062	270	33·4	44	163	123	15·2		123	15·2
1905	8286	326	39·3	38	116	102	12·3		102	12·3
1906	8990	298	33·1	41	137	98	10·9	8	106	11·7
1907	9200	296	32·1	42	141	135	14·6	6	141	15·3
1908	9350	306	32·7	39	127	116	12·4	16	132	14·1
Averages for years 1899-1908	8217	293	35·1	42	147	118	14·5		121	14·8
1909	9600	346	36·0	32	92	125	13·0	11	136	14·1

* Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 11 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 4,358.

Total population at all ages 7,670
Number of inhabited houses ... ... 1,593 } At Census of 1901.
Average number of persons per house 4·8

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1909.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Measles.. ..	13	1	10	2	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including membranous croup	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza	3	..	..	..	..	1	2
Diarrhœa ..	5	4	1	..	..	..	..
Erystpelas ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis, (Pulmonary tuberculosis) ...	5	..	..	..	1	3	1
Other tuberculous diseases...	4	1	..	1	1	1	..
Cancer, malignant disease..	6	..	..	..	1	4	1
Bronchitis ..	18	5	6	..	..	1	6
Pneumonia ..	13	1	6	2	1	2	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ..	4	..	2	2	..	..	..
Premature birth	9	9	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases and accidents of parturition ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Heart diseases..	6	1	..	..	..	4	1
Accidents ..	2	..	1	..	..	1	..
Other Septic Diseases ..	2	1	1	..	..	..	..
All other causes	42	8	2	4	..	9	19
All causes ..	136	32	30	12	5	26	31

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1909.

Deaths from Stated Causes in Weeks and Months Under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	All Causes. Certified	All Causes. Uncertified	Inf. Dis. Com. Measles	Diarrhœal Diseases. Diarrhœa, all forms	Wasting Diseases. Premature Birth	Wasting Diseases. Congenital Defects	Tub. Dis. Tuberculous Meningitis	Tub. Dis. Erysipelas	Tub. Dis. Meningitis not Tuberculous	Other Causes. Convulsions	Other Causes. Bronchitis	Other Causes. Pneumonia	Other Causes. Other Causes
Under 1 Week.			...	...	4	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
1-2 Weeks.			...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2-3 Weeks.			...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3-4 Weeks.			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1-2 Months.			...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	1
2-3 Months.			...	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
3-4 Months.			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4-5 Months.			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5-6 Months.			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6-7 Months.			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
7-8 Months.			...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
8-9 Months.			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
9-10 Months.			...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
10-11 Months.			1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
11-12 Months.			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Deaths under One Year.	32		1	4	9	3	1	1	1	4	5	1	2

Population Estimated to middle of 1909, 9,600.

Births in the Year { legitimate 331, illegitimate 15 } Deaths in the Year of { legitimate infants 30, illegitimate infants 2 }

Deaths from all causes at all ages, 136.

DEATHS IN INSTITUTIONS OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT IN 1909.

West Riding Asylums.

MONTH.	SEX.	AGE.	CAUSE OF DEATH.
—	Male	61 years	Cerebral Atrophy
—	Male	72 years	Heart Disease

Beckett Hospital and Workhouse Infirmary.

March	Male	33 years	Accident
March	Male	53 years	Heart Disease
June	Male	22 months	Accident
June	Female	64 years	Cerebral Hemorrhage
June	Male	30 years	Diabetes Mellitus
June	Male	53 years	Cancer
October	Male	80 years	Old Age
Nov.	Male	56 years	Old Age
Dec.	Female	69 years	Old Age

Notifiable Infectious Diseases, Cases of.—The total number of these reported during 1909 was 52, against 94 in 1908, and 71 in 1907. The different diseases and numbers notified were :—

	1907.	1908.	1909.
Diptheria	7	10	15
Erysipelas	15	5	13
Scarlet Fever	39	67	15
Enteric Fever	8	11	9
Puerperal Fever	2	1	0
	71	94	52

Thirteen were removed to Hospital, viz. :—Three of Diptheria, 7 of Scarlet Fever, and 3 of Enteric. Only one death occurred, that of a child from Diptheria.

The following table shows the district distribution of the diseases :—

	Swithen	Darton	Mapplewell	Higham	Gawber	Kexbro'
Scarlet Fever.	0	4	9	1	0	1
Diptheria	0	3	10	2	0	0
Enteric	0	2	4	2	0	1

Water Supply.—This has been satisfactory in quantity, while as to quality the only defect has been the presence of sediment during flushing operations. If these flushings were more frequent this fault would tend to disappear. No analysis has been made or is required, and there is practically no action on lead. All the new houses have been supplied on erection. At Kexbro' there are still quite a number of houses where it is not laid on. If this could be done it would be an advantage.

Sewerage.—There have been many complaints about the drainage of the newly developed Darton Lane property during the past year, but contracts have been made for dealing adequately with it, and it is hoped that these houses will be connected with the main sewer as speedily as possible. There are a few open sewers—I refer particularly to one behind New Street, Mapplewell, one at Upper Carr Green, and one at Hermit Lane, Higham, which should be cleansed and kept open so as to prevent stagnation of the contents. The main sewers should be flushed more regularly, especially during the summer months.

Sewage Disposal.—An improvement is to be noted in the state of the sewage effluent, and the sprinkler, erected by the Surveyor, is working well.

Bye-Laws.—No new ones have been adopted.

Adoptive Acts.—There are no Adoptive Acts in force.

Slaughter Houses.—The number on the register is 8, no new licence having been granted during the year. Their condition is good. One butcher has been fined £5 and costs for using an unlicensed slaughter-house, and another was sent to prison for three months (in default of paying a fine) for being in possession of diseased meat intended for the food of man.

Cow-Sheds—There are 32 in the district, the condition of which varies, some being very clean while others are not so satisfactory. I am glad to say that the Sanitary Committee has ordered an inspection of all to be made, and this will be carried out as soon as possible.

Dwellings.—Twenty-six houses were built during 1909, one-third with four rooms each and two-thirds with living room and scullery. It is, I think, to be regretted that houses are not built more roomy, some of the kitchens used as living room being ridiculously small. Baths, which are so important in a colliery district, are never introduced—a loss from the point of view of both decency and cleanliness. The abolition of water charges for water closets within the urban area, with the exception of Gawber, will, it is hoped, induce property owners to provide these, while with regard to Gawber it is to be hoped that Barnsley Corporation will soon see their way to grant this health-boom to it also.

Overcrowding.—There is some over-crowding in several villages. Notices have been served in several cases, and some abatement has been effected, and we may expect further lessening of the evil as the new houses, now being erected, are occupied. The evil, however, is made worse by the owners of property discouraging the letting of their houses to persons with large families.

Damp Houses.—Many houses are damp from defective spouting and broken fall pipes. The Inspector is doing his utmost to get these defects remedied, with the result that matters are being greatly improved.

Closets and Ashpits.—The closet accommodation has been greatly improved during the past year, though in some cases it is still insufficient. Twelve old closets have been replaced by new ones, roofed and grated according to the Council's model plan. Particularly have improvements been effected at Staincross Hill, where it is bound to improve the health of the inhabitants. Seven additional grates have been fixed on ashpits at Hermit Terrace, Higham. Repairs and alterations and re-building of conveniences are in progress in various parts of the district. Several closets are so built as to abut on the public highway. These are undesirable from the point of view of both health and decency, and it is hoped that they may be removed in the near future to more private sites.

Infectious Diseases.—As it is very important that Diphtheritic Antitoxin should be used as early as possible, it was recommended that it be supplied free to practitioners in the district. This, of course, is only meant to be used in addition to the efficient isolation of the patient by removal to hospital, if necessary.

On account of an epidemic of measles during the summer, it was thought proper to close the Mapplewell Infants' School from 18th June 1909, to 2nd July, 1909.

Tuberculosis.—One case of tuberculosis was notified during the year. I think, seeing that many towns have been granted permission to put tuberculosis on the list of notifiable diseases, that this Council should apply to have it put on the list here. As it is, every effort is made to trace cases and supply leaflets on the subject, and after death to disinfect the infected rooms.

Schools.—Water closets are required at Kexbro' and Higham Schools, though with regard to the latter I am glad to learn that plans have been passed for their installation. With a view to the limitation and prevention of certain contagious diseases of the scalp and skin, the School Authorities have been recommended to introduce numbered pegs for the use of individual scholars. This is in process of being done, and should prove beneficial.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.—There are ten factories and workshops in the district. One workshop was referred to the Council as being without closet accommodation by H.M. Inspector of Factories. The Council served notice on the owners, and closet and urinal have been erected.

Public Urinals.—With regard to those at public-houses marked improvements have been made. There is great need for the provision of these in some of the villages, and a committee has been appointed to select suitable sites for their erection.

Sanitary Committee. — This Committee has already inspected a good part of the district with the result of greatly strengthening the hands of the Inspector and myself in the insisting on the carrying out of sanitary improvements.

I have to acknowledge the support the Council has given me, and the assistance afforded by the Officials in the carrying out of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. MILLAR

(Medical Officer of Health).

Darton,
8th March, 1910.